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SUBJECT: ICCPR: LETTER TO CHAIR OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS  
COMMITTEE

REF: STATE 211314

1. (U) Following in paragraph 2 below is the text of a letter to the Chairperson of the Human Rights Committee, Mr. Abdelfattah Amor, for signature by Ambassador Moley. Mission is requested to deliver the text at the earliest opportunity.

2. (U) Begin text.

Mr. Abdelfattah Amor  
Chairperson of the Human Rights Committee  
Geneva

I am pleased to respond to your letter of May July 27, 2004, which expressed your hope that the Government of the United States would submit by December 31 of 2004 its combined second and third periodic reports on measures taken by the United States to implement the International Covenant of

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Civil and Political Rights ("the Covenant"). While the United States has been working with great energy in preparing the report in the months since it received your letter, my government felt it appropriate to wait in responding until it had a clearer idea of when it would be able to provide that submission.

As you know, the preparation of a comprehensive submission of the sort contemplated in Article 40 of the Covenant is a large and complex undertaking. The United States has worked industriously to collect the information needed for its report and is in the process of writing its submission based on all of these materials. At the same time, it has been engaged in a similarly challenging task of completing its preparations and drafting of its second periodic report to the Committee Against Torture on U.S. implementation of the Convention Against Torture and other Cruel, Inhumane or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. As I am sending this letter, the United States is in the final stages of preparing that draft. As many of the issues that are the subject matter of the CAT are similarly of interest to the Human Rights Committee, my government felt that the time and attention it spent on its CAT submission would also assist the United States in its second and third periodic report on implementation of the Covenant.

While this process of preparing and writing the report on implementation of the Covenant has taken longer than the United States or the Committee would have hoped, we will make every effort to have a report ready for submission as early as possible in 2005, we hope by the time of the Committee's March meeting.

Please be assured that the United States regards this report as a matter of great seriousness and urgency, and that we are continuing to expend the necessary time and energy to make its submission thorough and rigorous. We appreciate the Committee's understanding in this regard and look forward to working with you and the Committee on this matter.

(complimentary closing)

End text.  
POWELL

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